to the quantity and value of merchandize permitted to be imported under the Agreement.

The Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th day after the contracting parties have notified each other that their respective constitutional requirements and "procedures have been completed.

Trade with China and Myanmar

*82. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Arunachal Pradesh has submitted any proposal to the Ministry for resumption of border trade with China and Myanmar;

(b) whether similar proposals have been received from other States of north-eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) In March 1995, the Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh had submitted a proposal to this Ministry for the resumption of border trade with China. There was no proposal for border trade with Myanmar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The states of the North-East Region bordering China and Myanmar have not made out any proposals.

Unauthorised J. J. Cluster

*83. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government an aware that the unauthorised J. J. Cluster opposite Mandakini Enclave and Kalka

The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday. The Ist March, 1999, was included. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that they were laid on the Tabel of the House on Thursday the 4th March, 1999

Public School known as Alaknanda Camp on DDA land earmarked for community centre do have a number of shop establishement and workshops;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the cluster meant for residential colonies is not surrounded by any market; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove these shops and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) D.D.A. has reported that efforts were made on 19.6.1993 and 1.7.1994 to ensure that the plot earmarked for Community Centre is not used by the J J cluster for commercial purposes. However, DDA met with limited success. Such slum clusters are covered under the scheme for relocation on priority basis.

विदेशों में भारतीय श्रमिक

*84.**श्री गोपाल सिंह जी.सोलंकी**: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय श्रमिकों के विदेशों में रोजगार के लिये अपनायी जा रही प्रक्रिया के संबंध में सरकार ने कोई कार्य-योजना बनाने पर विचार किया हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो उक्त नीति की रूपरेखा किए मानदंड के आधार पर निर्धारित की जाएगी;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय श्रमिकों के भविष्य और सुरक्षा हेतु समय-समय पर स्थिति का अध्ययन किया है;और

(घ) रोजगार के अवसर ढूंढने के लिए श्रमिकों को सहायता देने हेतु सरकार ने क्या प्रयास किये हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया): (क) और (ख) विदेशों में भारतीय श्रमिकों के नियोजन की प्रक्रिया पहले ही उत्प्रवास अधिनियम,1983 तथा उसके अधीन बनाए गये नियमों में निर्धारित की गई है । अधिनियम तथा नियमों में,जब कभी जरूरी समझा जाता है,संशोधन किये जाते हैं ।

((ग) विदेशों में रोजगार के लिये भारतीय श्रमिको के लिये संभावनाओं के संबंध में अभी तक कोई विशिष्ट अध्ययन नहीं कराया गया हैं । तथापि विदेश स्थित भारतीय मिशनों से प्राप्त जानकारी के आधार पर स्थिति की समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है । भारतीय श्रमिकों की सुरक्षा के संबंध में भारतीय श्रमिकों के शोषण से संबंधित मामलों को विदेश में स्थित भारतीय मिशनों के साथ उठाया जाता है कि वे विदेशी नियोक्ताओं के परामर्श से भारतीय श्रमिकों की समस्याओं को हल करें । अधिकाशं मामलों में भारतीय मिशन तथा पंजीकृत भर्ती एजेंट श्रमिकों की समस्याओं को हल करने में सफल रहते हैं ।

(घ) सरकार जनशक्ति निर्यात के कारबार में सीधे संलग्र नहीं है । इसके बजाए,सरकार की भूमिका नियोजन प्रक्रिया को विनियमित करने तक सीमित हैं । यह नियोजन पंजीकृत भर्ती एजन्टों के माध्यम से किया जाता है । पंजीकृत भर्ती एजेंट भारतीय श्रमिकों का चयन विदेशी नियोक्ताओं से मांग पत्रों तथा मुख्तारनामें के आधार पर करते हैं । जब कभी पंजीकृत भर्ती एजेन्ट समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से बायोडाटा मंगाने और या साक्षात्कार करने के लिये विज्ञापन प्रकाशित कराते हैं,तब इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी सीधे पंजीकृत भर्ती एजेंटों से सम्पर्क करते हैं । तथापि सरकार एक केन्द्रीय जनशक्ति निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद का गठन करने का प्रस्तव कर रही हैं जो,गठित हो जाने के बाद,जनशक्ति निर्यात के क्षेत्र में सलाहकारी एंव संवर्धनकारी कार्य करेगा ।

Central Legislation for Agricultural Workers

*85. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have dropped the idea of enacting a Central legislation for the comprehensive protection and uplift of agricultural workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the status of proposed bill and the tentative time schedule for an early enactment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c)' A proposal for enacting a Central legislation to protect the interests of the agricultural labourers in the country is at the stage of consultation with various Ministries/Departments.

Decline in Exports

*86. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reaons for the sharp decline in India's exports during April-December, 1998; and

(b) what steps are being taken to revitalize India's export promotion strategies and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of • Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), during April-December 1998-99, exports registered a decline of 2.88% in dollar terms and a growth of 11.7% in rupee terms. The deceleration of exports is mainly due to South East Asian crisis and world wide recession.

(b) Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and consultation with trade and industry. A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other meaures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The Government is also initiating action thorugh several measures to facilitate investment in